

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AID-05 IO-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

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AID/AFR/CWR:FGILBERT/JPATTERSON

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R 032300Z APR 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY LOME

AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

INFO AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 076032

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PBOR, ML UV

SUBJECT:MALI-UPPER VOLTA BORDER DISPUTE: LOME MEDIATION

-- COMMISSION

REF: OUAGADOUGOU 590

PARIS FOR MELONE

1. WE WOULD LIKE TO BRING UP TO DATE THE LIMITED INFORMATION
WE HAVE ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE LOME QUADRAPARTITE
MEDIATION COMMISSION IN ITS EFFORT TO BRING ABOUT A PEACEFUL
SETTLEMENT OF THE MALI-UPPER VOLTA BORDER DISPUTE. REAL-
IZING THAT SUCH A COMMISSION NORMALLY WOULD CONDUCT MOST
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OF ITS BUSINESS BEHIND THE SCENES, WE WONDER NEVERTHELESS

IF THE ABSENCE OF EVIDENCE OF PROGRESS BY THE COMMISSION
CONFIRMS THE PESSIMISTIC VIEW OF THE FRENCH AMBASSADOR IN
OUAGADOUGOU (REFTEL) THAT THE COMMISSION IS NOT DOING WELL.

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2. FYI: EVEN THOUGH THE POLICY ISSUE POSED BY GOUV'S
REQUEST TO US FOR PERMISSION TO PURCHASE ARMS IN THE US HAS
BEEN RESOLVED, WE STILL HAVE A SERIOUS INTEREST IN THE
EVOLUTION OF THIS DISPUTE AND THE ACCOMPANYING MEDIATION
EFFORT. EMBASSY OUAGA'S ASSESSMENT IS THAT THE VOLTANS
ARE ACTIVELY PREPARING FOR AN OFFENSIVE AND WILL PROBABLY
ATTEMPT TO RECONQUER THEIR LOST TERRITORY WITHIN THE NEXT
TWO MONTHS, I.E., BEFORE THE RAINY SEASON. WE FEAR THAT

ANOTHER ROUND OF HOSTILITIES COULD SERIOUSLY COMPLICATE
OUR AND OTHER DONOR NATION EFFORTS TO ASSIST VICTIMS OF
THE DROUGHT IN THE SAHEL. HOSTILITIES WOULD INTERRUPT THE
DISTRIBUTION OF GRAIN IN THE CRITICAL PRE-HARVEST PERIOD
AND COULD CAUSE WIDESPREAD SUFFERING. WE ARE ALSO CON-
CERNED BY THE WITHDRAWAL OF VOLTAN MILITARY PERSONNEL AND
EQUIPMENT WHICH HAD BEEN PARTICIPATING IN THE FOOD DIS-
TRIBUTION PROGRAM. IF FIGHTING RESUMES, WE WOULD EXPECT
THIS SITUATION TO BE EXACERBATED, BOTH IN UPPER VOLTA AND
MALI. LASTLY, A RESUMPTION OF HOSTILITIES COULD HAVE A
VERY UNWELCOME EFFECT ON OUR EFFORT TO SUSTAIN PUBLIC
SUPPORT FOR THE DROUGHT RELIEF EFFORT. END FYI.

3. ACTION ADDRESSEES ARE THEREFORE REQUESTED TO APPROACH
HOST GOVERNMENTS AT MOST SENIOR LEVEL THEY CONSIDER
APPROPRIATE AND SOLICIT THE VIEWS OF THE COMMISSION
MEMBERS WITH RESPECT TO THE STATUS OF THE MEDIATION
EFFORT. SHOULD IT APPEAR APPROPRIATE, YOU MAY MENTION
THAT US HAS TRIED TO ASSIST MEDIATION COMMISSION'S
EFFORTS BY MAINTAINING EMBARGO ON ARMS DELIVERIES TO
BELLIGERENTS. YOU SHOULD EMPHASIZE OUR HUMANITARIAN
CONCERN FOR WELFARE OF PEOPLE LIKELY TO SUFFER SHOULD
HOSTILITIES AGAIN OCCUR AND US HOPES FOR PEACEFUL
SETTLEMENT. INGERSOLL

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